



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
PROBATION OVERSIGHT COMMISSION
STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
VIRTUAL SPECIAL MEETING



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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2023, 1:30 P.M.

VIDEO FILE FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING

Attachment: [Video](#)

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Call to Order and Roll Call.

Chair Jackson called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m. Ms. Wendelyn Julien, Executive Director, conducted the roll call:

Present: Commissioner Dolores Canales, Commissioner Franky Carrillo, Commissioner Samuel Lewis, Vice-Chair Milinda Kakani, and Chair Esché L. Jackson

Absent: Commissioner Donald D. Meredith and Secretary Sean Garcia-Leys

II. DISCUSSIONS

2. Discuss and take appropriate action on the Los Angeles County Probation Department's involvement with auctioning firearms.

- Wendelyn Julien, Executive Director, Los Angeles Probation Oversight Commission

Ms. Julien gave an overview of the Board motion and explained the Los Angeles County Probation Oversight Commission's (POC's) role in the Board motion, which requires the POC to conduct an investigation. She presented the draft motions, both of which were attached to the agenda, and requested that the Commissioners vote on delegating the completion of the report to the POC staff. She also provided an update into the investigation, reporting that the service weapons that the Los Angeles County Probation Department (Probation) had intended to sell are considered "off-roster" weapons and only able to be sold to verified sworn law enforcement personnel, that the auction was cancelled and no weapons sold, and that Probation is in the process of destroying the weapons.

Commissioner Lewis joined the meeting at 1:42 pm

No members of the public commented on this item.

In response to Commissioner Kakani's inquiry about Commissioners being able to provide feedback on the investigation, Ms. Julien confirmed that there would still be opportunity for feedback on the report.

Chair Jackson, Commissioner Kakani, and Commissioner Canales concurred that Motion 2 was preferred so the Commissioners and the public could review the report prior to it being submitted.

Chair Jackson proposed a motion, seconded by Commissioner Carrillo, to authorize the Executive Director to complete the investigation and report on behalf of the POC in collaboration with County Counsel and instruct Executive Director Wende Julien to submit the report to the POC before the meeting on March 9 for discussion and approval.

On motion of Commissioner Chair Jackson, seconded by Commissioner Carrillo, and unanimously carried, (Commissioners Garcia-Leys and Meredith being absent) the POC approved Motion 2:

Ayes: 5 – Commissioner Dolores Canales, Commissioner Franky Carrillo, Commissioner Samuel Lewis, Vice-Chair Milinda Kakani, and Chair Esché L. Jackson

Absent: 2 – Secretary Sean Garcia-Leys and Commissioner Donald D. Meredith

Attachments: [Board Motion Article/Media Motion](#)
Public Comment/Correspondence

3. Discuss and take appropriate action a proposed plan for the secure youth treatment facilities (SYTF), an update on the movement of youth to Campus Kilpatrick, and implementation of programs and policies at both Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall (BJNJH) and Campus Kilpatrick.

- Wendelyn Julien, Executive Director, Los Angeles Probation Oversight Commission
- Franky Carrillo, Commissioner, Los Angeles Probation Oversight Commission
- Adam Bettino, Chief Deputy, Los Angeles County Probation Department

Ms. Julien explained that the SYTF proposal attached was developed through a collaborative process between the members of the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council-Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant (JJCC-JJRBG) subcommittee on facilities, the POC's Facilities Ad Hoc Committee, and the Probation Department.

Commissioner Lewis shared highlights from the SYTF proposal.

Mr. Bettino explained the thought process for creating the SYTF proposal and stressed that solutions for the facilities had to include analysis of all the facilities. He also provided status updates on the BJNJH renovations.

Ms. Patricia Soung, member of the JJCC-JJRBG subcommittee, stated that the SYTF plans began in 2020, but the urgency of implementation has been non-existent. She stressed the importance and benefits of creating a comprehensive SYTF plan for the youth dispositioned to SYTF who are and will be in the care of the Probation Department by July 1, 2023.

Charrise Lockhart, Aditi Sherikar, Daniel Bisuano, Marsha McLean, Leah Zeigler-Ordaz, Thomas Bell, Kathleen Crowley, Frank Paredes, Myron Carr-Smith, Jackie Bedoya, and Angela James addressed the POC.

Chair Jackson stated that moving forward with this SYTF plan is going to create the best opportunity to foster healing and rehabilitation for youth and mitigate harm.

Commissioner Kakani shared her concerns about young people and staff being in a crisis because of the culture of the Probation Department. She specifically requested that discussion on intensive crisis management and healing opportunities be prioritized because some of the items in the proposal are already happening.

Commissioner Canales and Chair Jackson inquired about the budget and staffing for SYTF. Mr. Bettino mentioned that about \$30-40 million has been set aside for SYTF programming only, not staffing. He added that the Probation Department is using existing departmental vacancies to staff SYTF instead of funding new positions.

Chair Jackson inquired about incentivizing promotions. Mr. Bettino explained that these topics are on the table, and under negotiation. He clarified that the Probation Department does not have the authority to provide bonuses because that comes through the Chief Executive Office.

In response to Chair Jackson's inquiry about the flexibility with existing positions, Mr. Bettino stated that he can provide a report back to the POC on staffing.

Commissioner Carrillo shared his sentiments that some things should be taken off the table to create a realistic vision of the future.

Commissioner Carrillo proposed a motion, seconded by Commissioner Lewis, to recommend approval of the SYTF proposal with the addition of a recommendation to close Central Juvenile Hall (CJH) and request that all staff, resources, and funds be reallocated to align with the POC's plan.

Commissioner Kakani expressed wanting further discussion and analyses prior to deciding to close a facility down, referencing a recent motion by Supervisor Solis requesting a report back from the Probation Department on the feasibility of shutting down CJH that has not been discussed.

Chair Jackson also expressed wanting to have further discussion prior to deciding to close CJH.

Commissioner Carrillo stated that placing youth from the California Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) at BJNJH has become the default for the Probation Department in lieu of finding alternative placement options.

Commissioner Lewis shared his sentiments and stated that the recommendations are for both the short- and the long-term.

Chair Jackson explained the desire to make a well-informed decision on the motion, but the plan did not include a recommendation to close CJH.

On motion of Commissioner Carrillo, seconded by Commissioner Lewis, and duly carried by the following vote (Commissioners Garcia-Leys and Meredith being absent), the POC accepted the SYTF proposal as presented, recommended that CJH be closed, and requested that all staff, resources, and funds be reallocated to align with the POC's plan to the Board of Supervisors.

Ayes: 3 – Commissioner Dolores Canales, Commissioner Franky Carrillo, Commissioner Samuel Lewis, Vice-Chair Milinda Kakani, and Chair Esché L. Jackson

Noes: 2 – Vice-Chair Milinda Kakani and Chair Esché L. Jackson

Absent: 2 – Secretary Sean Garcia-Leys and Commissioner Donald D. Meredith

Attachments: [SYTF Facilities Proposal Supporting Document](#)
[Public Comment/Correspondence](#)

Commissioner Canales shared that CJH has continuously and constantly been in numerous violations with the California Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) and that closure of CJH should not be done in a day.

Ms. Soung stated that closing a facility requires an in-depth level of planning that has not taken place yet, but the urgency of the proposal was raised due to DJJ closing in four months and SYTF youth already being housed at BJNJH temporarily.

III. MISCELLANEOUS

MATTERS NOT POSTED

4. Matters not posted on the agenda, to be discussed and (if requested), placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting of the authority, of matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action arose subsequent to the posting of the agenda.

Ms. Julien announced that the next POC meeting will be in-person at St. Anne's Events and Conference Center.

Commissioner Lewis shared his sentiments on his support for calling for Chief Deputy Karen Fletcher's resignation based on concerns about operations in the facilities.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

5. Adjournment for the emergency meeting of February 28, 2023.

Chair Jackson adjourned the meeting at 3:22 p.m.